

Spirit of Jefferson.

Charlestown, Jefferson County, West Va.

TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 2, 1873.

MUST HAVE WHAT IS DUE US.

Our financial affairs have come to that

crisis that dues on subscription, advertising

and job work to the Spirit of Jefferson

must be paid; as we cannot work for nothing

and live on air. A heavy debt hangs over us

for paper, in which we have been kindly indulged,

and that at once. Type founders, office rent,

taxes, the hands in our office, light and fuel

bills, groceries and a hundred other necessities

incident to family expenses and publishing a

paper, grow upon us for money, and therefore

no way of meeting them, but through collection

of what is due us.

We will, after this

week, commence making out all accounts, and

we hope that we shall not be thrown into the

disagreeable necessity of making forced collections.

We have indulged until indulgence has become a farce, and to continue a busi-

ness by perpetually paying out and with

nothing coming in is impossible. Will those

who owe us bills take heed?

STAY-LAW.

It being generally understood that Editors

are not responsible for sentiments expressed

in communications, we publish this week a

well-written letter from "Observer," advocating

the passage of a Stay-law. In our Edi-

torial of last week, in which "Observer's"

letter is a reply, we stated it as our belief that

no movement in the direction of a Stay-law

would find popular favor; and as Jefferson

certainly one of the richest counties in the

State, we did not wish her people to place

themselves in the position of being the first

and perhaps the only ones to ask for protec-

tion from the payments of their debts; with

quite as much in their pockets with which to

pay them as the people of any other county.

We also declared that experience had shown,

that where there was no mode of enforcing

the payments of debts, people will pay neither

principal nor interest; and we will add that,

in our opinion at least, the effect of a Stay-

law is always a demoralizing one to any com-

munity. Those were your sentiments at the

time of our editorial of last week, and we

most own that, notwithstanding "Observer's"

letter with its statement of fact in regard to

the Virginia Stay-law, the contraction of the

currency, &c., with which we confess not to

be familiar, our views remain entirely un-

changed. We do not propose an answer to go

a statistician as "Observer." We pub-

lish his letter in a conspicuous place, so that

"those who run may read." If it convinces

any one that, at this time, the people of this

State would be benefited by a stoppage of

the payment of all debts, we shall not object.

We merely take editorial notice of the letter,

because being "of the same opinion still," we

do not choose that our silence should be con-

strued into a "change of front," and a gen-

eral acquiescence in the views of "Observer."

Our columns are always open for the publica-

tion of communications upon matters of pub-

lic interest; but when our views do not ac-

cord with those of our correspondents, it must

be understood that there is an amicable "agree-

ment to disagree."

THE CUBAN IMBROGLIO.

The news from Havana is warlike. The

Hayancos vehemently declare that, come what

may, the Virginians shall not be given up.—

They assert that they will not obey any or-

der from Madrid calling for the restoration of

the steamer to the United States Government,

nor make any reparation for her seizure and

the murder of her crew. The *Luz de Cuba*

says that Castellar has not sufficient power to

issue an order. On the other hand, it is re-

ported from Washington that the negotiations

with Spain have taken a more favorable turn.

If so, Castellar's power to give up the Vir-

ginias will soon be tested.

It is persistently asserted that Minister

Sickles has left Madrid. This is probably

not true, although his instructions were to

close his legation on Wednesday last, and he

may deem that he has cause of offense in the

manner in which he has been treated by the

Spanish Cabinet, and in the negotiations tak-

ing place at Washington through Admiral

Polo, instead of at the proper place, Madrid.

COUNTY MATTERS.

We have not the slightest objection in the

world to the Shepherdstown Register "expos-"

ing unnecessary expenditures upon the county

buildings at the expense of the tax-payers of

the county, "whenever and wherever it pleases;

but whenever a public journal in one end of

the county picks up little scraps of conversa-

tion thrown out by irresponsible parties, or

that may be expressed in a joke, and thereby

attempts to place the responsibility for every-

thing upon Charlestown, for acts done by the

representatives of the county at large, and

array one section of the county against another;

we shall enter our serious protest against such

action. "Give the devil his due," all the

time, and when next you strike, Mr. Register,

be sure and hit those nearest to you first, and

then go abroad; and not stoop to create little

pity, animosity with puerile fabrications.

According to the act of the Legisla-

ture, requiring the Governor and heads of

departments to certify to Congress the mem-

bers elected from West Virginia, which act be-

came a law by the neglect of the Governor

to sign or veto—a meeting took place at the

capital on Friday week; all present except

the Governor, and certificates were awarded

to Benjamin Wilson, B. F. Martin, and Frank

Herrick.

The Industrial Age, an influential

anti-monopolist paper published at Chicago,

U. S., in acknowledging the receipt of a com-

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man, John A. Thomson, Esq., characterizes

him as "one of the best thinkers in West Vir-

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